

We claim:

1 1. A method of clustering a plurality of client IP addresses within a distributed information
2 network, the method comprising the steps of:

3 generating a unified prefix/netmask table from a plurality of network routing table
4 prefix/netmask entries;

5 comparing each of the plurality of client IP addresses with the unified prefix/netmask
6 table to determine a common prefix between each of the plurality of client IP addresses and at
7 least one of the entries in the unified prefix/netmask table; and

8 grouping client IP addresses which share a common prefix into a network client cluster.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating a unified prefix/netmask table
2 from a plurality of network routing table prefix/netmask entries includes the steps of:

3 extracting the prefix/netmask entries from a plurality of network routing tables; and
4 converting the prefix/netmask entries into a standardized format.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the client IP addresses are extracted from a network log.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 identifying existing spiders and/or proxies within the network log.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 placing one or more servers in front of a network client cluster, wherein the servers are at
3 least one of proxy servers, cache servers, content distribution servers and mirror servers.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the common prefix is the common longest matching
2 prefix from the unified prefix/netmask table.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the distributed information network is the World Wide
2 Web.

1102030456789101112131415161718192021222324252627282930313233343536373839404142434445464748495051525354555657585960616263646566676869707172737475767778798081828384858687888990919293949596979899100

8. A method for guiding placement of servers within a distributed information network using at least one network server log and at least one network routing table from the distributed information network, the method comprising:

- extracting a plurality of prefix/netmask entries from the at least one network routing table;
- generating a unified prefix/netmask table from the plurality of extracted prefix/netmask entries;
- extracting a plurality of client IP addresses from the at least one network server log;
- comparing each of the plurality of client IP addresses with entries in the unified/prefix netmask table to determine a common longest matching prefix between each of the plurality of client IP addresses and the entries in the unified/prefix netmask table; and
- grouping all of the client IP addresses which share the common longest matching prefix into at least one client cluster.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein generating a unified prefix/netmask table from the plurality of extracted prefix/netmask entries includes:

- converting the prefix/netmask entries into a standardized format.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the servers are selected from the group consisting of proxy servers, cache servers, content distribution servers and mirror servers.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein each client cluster is assigned one or more servers.

12. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

- assigning one or more servers to each client cluster based on the number of requests issued by the clients within each client cluster.

